

# The Irfan Times



## IRFAN COLLEGE

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

#### FIRST DAY OF TERM 2

Wednesday, 26th April

#### NAPLAN

Tuesday, 9th May to Thursday, 11th May

#### SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

Friday, 19th May

#### RAMADAN BELL TIMES

School starts at **8.45am**  
School ends at **2.30pm**

#### EID UL FITR/BAYRAM

Monday, 26th June to Tuesday, 27th June

#### LAST DAY OF TERM 2

Friday, 30th June

#### TERM 2 HOLIDAYS

Monday, 3rd July to Monday, 17th July

#### RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Tuesday 18th July

## Principal's Message

Alhamdulillah, all praise and thanks is due to Allah for providing us with yet another fruitful and productive term. Thanks to our dedicated team, we are one step closer to the ideal college we aspire to be.

One of our greatest achievements so far this year is the revitalisation of our school culture. This can be seen on many fronts including the shift of language, behaviour and attitude among our staff, students and parents. The investment made last year in our College vision, mission and values have contributed immensely to this positive change; however we are still at the very early stages of establishing our institutional culture.

Our Secondary department has been busy with the addition of years seven and eight to our College, and our experienced secondary teachers we have been able to establish an effective teaching and learning routine. We have also busy in the Secondary department with the application for year nine and the renewal of registration for year seven and eight. The applications were due on the 31st of March and they have all been completed alhamdulillah.

Our Primary department has been busy consolidating a number of systems and programs introduced term four last year. These include the assessment schedule, homework structure, Mathletics and the Common A -E Grading Scale.

Another very exciting initiative has been the K-2 Literacy and Numeracy Action Plan (LNAP) which has a focus on improving the literacy and numeracy outcomes of students from K-2 by equipping teachers with evidence based techniques for pedagogical instruction. We have included our three to six teachers in the on-school professional development sessions to further enhance teacher capacity.

Our Learning and Support department have also achieved some great milestones this term including the development of more effective referral sys-

tems, Individual Learning plans, programs and procedures. They have also evaluated and redesigned our guided reading program to make it more suited to the needs of our students.

In addition to the social needs of our students we have also identified the need to strengthen our spiritual programs and the College is proud to announce the Young Scholars Program (YSP) which has been prepared by our College's Islamic Studies and Qur'an Coordinator, Mr Erol Kaso. The YSP is a four year foundations programs that consists of Qur'anic memorisation, Classical Arabic and Islamic studies. The YSP is open to only 15 students, who have displayed academic and social excellence.

Alhamdulillah, The big news is the commencement of construction for our first permanent building. We are in the process of signing a contract with the building company and hope to get the go ahead by the end of the month. We are also in the process of applying for another DA to Fairfield Council which involves the increase of student numbers to 300 with stage development to 600 students insha'Allah. We are looking to submit the DA to council in May/June.

I would like to thank all of my staff for their hard work and dedication this term and pray that our school community enjoys a safe break in the upcoming holidays.

Yours Truly,  
Mr Ali Arabaci.

**The best gift from a father to his child is education and upbringing (Prophet Muhammed PBUH, Tirmidh)**

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## Wellbeing Coordinator's Message

### Well-being:

Assalamu Alaykum,

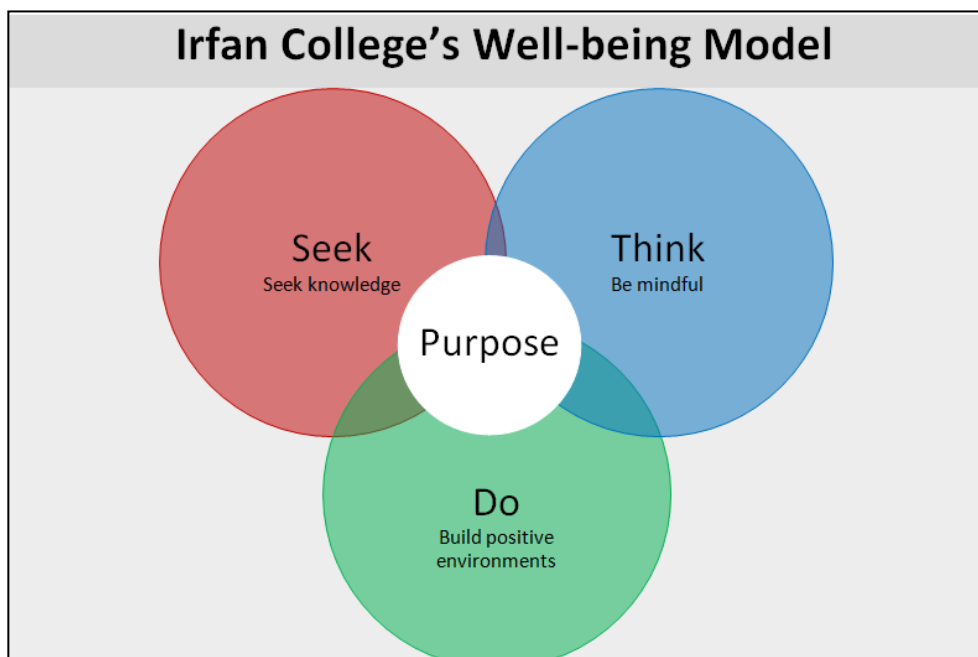
This term we have established a whole-school program to focus on the expected student expectations in various locations of the school. This program will work to instil our school's values and establish a culture for students to flourish.

At Irfan College we believe that the school is a vital part of our student's growth. Therefore, we believe that we need to focus not only on the academic but also the spiritual aspects of our students. Due to this need we have established our Well-being model which is comprised of: Seek, Think & Do. Seek stands for Seek Knowledge, Think stands for Be mindful and Do stands for Build positive environments. All of the three components lead to a greater understanding in our purpose of creation.

This term Years 5, 6, 7 & 8 went on camp to Milson Island during the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2017. During camp students took part in fun group challenges and activities that promote key learning through:

Five daily prayers and also Tahajjud (night prayer)

- Character building lectures
- Relationships - developing skills in communication, problem solving, cooperation, negotiation, respect and care
- Outdoors – nurturing an appreciation of the natural environment and sustainability
- Action – reinforcing the importance of physical activity for wellbeing
- Resilience –collaborating, negotiating and reflecting on difficult challenges to build courage and strength.



# Highlights of Term 1

## Harmony Day

Of the many highlights of term 1, Harmony Day was by far the most fun! Our students and staff made us proud as they got into the spirit of the day by celebrating the various cultures we have in our school. It was a great way for us to appreciate the differences that bring us all together as Australian Muslims and we celebrated diversity through dress, tradition and of course, food. And... we had lots to choose from! However, this would not have been possible without all the efforts of our wonderful parents, so thank you! Here are some of the moments that were captured by school staff on the day.





# School Camp

Another highlight this term was the school camp which involved students from years 5-8. This year students and staff spent three days at Milson's Island. It was a fun-filled experience which allowed students and teachers to build stronger relationships as they navigated their way through a range of activities including canoeing, the giant swing and building a raft. These team-building activities helped students learn about the skills that they would need to get along with each other, at school and social settings. Despite having a great time, staff and students were all happy to be back home.

Many photos were taken to capture the event, and thanks to the photographic efforts of Miss Mesude and Miss Rukiye, those of us who didn't attend can enjoy the activities and share in the fun of the 2017 School Camp.





# F U T S A L

Another highlight this term was the Futsal training program which was attended by students in years 7 and 8. Futsal is a type of indoor soccer and our students attended a program to help them prepare for the Futsal competition which will begin in term 2. The aim of this competition is to help our students build skills that will enable them to work more effectively as a team, and teach them the skills of good sportsmanship in a fun and interactive environment. Following the outcome of this one day competition, our students may have the opportunity to progress further in this competition.



# OTHER IRFAN NEWS

## A to E grading Scale

This year has seen some changes to the way in which we report to parents about student progress. We have adjusted our grading system to align with the NESA recommended A to E grading scale which lets teachers report student academic achievements at any point in time using clear standards.

Teachers make professional and balanced judgments to decide which grade best matched the students your child has achieved, and these judgments are based on assessment information collected at different points through the year.

The A to E grade scale summarises the standard or quality of achievement and describes the:

- depth of knowledge and understanding of the student and
- the range of skills that students should have at that particular grade level.

BOSTES (now NESAS) have provided schools with more information about the A to E grade scale and samples of work which guide teachers when making decisions around grading.

If you would like more information regarding the A to E grade scale you are welcome to visit the Assessment Resource Centre online at <https://arc.bostes.nsw.edu.au/go/home>

## Literacy Pro

Term 2 will see the start of the Literacy Pro (LitPro) program at Irfan College. This is a reading program that is based on lexile measures which assess the difficulty of a text or a student's reading ability. This allows students to read books that are within their ability range, and master the skills at each level before progressing to the next lexile measure or level.

Students need to complete an online literacy assessment/quiz to determine their individual level and they will then choose to read books from a range of books from the school library which have been grouped based on lexile levels.

## Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)

Each year school students are invited to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC). This is a reading competition organised by the NSW government to encourage a love of reading in students, and enable them to access quality literature. The PRC is available to students in Kindergarten to Year 9 in all school settings. Books are chosen from a book list which is available on the PRC website. The 2017 Challenge started on the Monday 6 March and closes Friday 25 August at midnight for students. Please visit the PRC website for more information on the guidelines for participating in the PRC and to help your child make choices about what they want to read.

To encourage our students to read and become involved in the PRC, Irfan College has made a significant purchase of books listed on the PRC book list. These books have been catalogued and clearly marked, and students are able to access them through our school library. Below is the link to the PRC.

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>





# Term 1 in KA



*What a term it has been! It has been a pleasure becoming apart of the Irfan college team of teachers. I kicked off my journey with kindergarten in week 5 this term and it has been an amazing experience Alhamdillah.*

*The butterflies of KA have worked hard attaining an ultimate outcome which has been responsibility and progress in their learning. My future goal for KA is to provide and facilitate all students with quality learning experiences. Term 1 was all about discovery based learning and engaging the students in hands on English and Math lessons. Play doh was implemented in both Numeracy and Literacy lessons allowing students to grasp the concepts of fractions and weekly spelling words in an engaging approach. Harmony day was another highlight of the term which saw our beautiful KA butterflies dress up in their culture wear in support of diversity and peace. This term KA won the assembly class trophy which was an awesome reward for kindergartens hard work!*

*I look forward to Term 2 in KA as we aim to create many more meaningful learning experiences and joyful memories by the will of Allah (swt).*

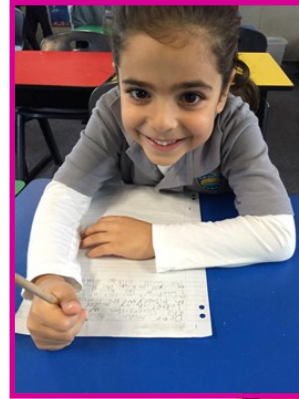


let them be **LITTLE**  
fill their hearts with  
**LAUGHTER**  
help them **GROW WINGS**  
nurture their sense of  
**WONDER**  
inspire them to **BELIEVE**  
**LOVE** them like there's  
no tomorrow

Ms. Amena Yatim

# Year 1

Year 1 has had a very fruitful first Term of 2017. Through the duration of the term students participated in various challenging activities in the classroom, across all curriculum areas, where they were encouraged to do their best and participate during class activities.



Students enhanced their reading skills through DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) during their reading lessons, as this term our focus has been on reading/comprehension and writing stories of our own!



Our class captain Alara Eris and our vice-captain Halil Ordukaya have been positive role models during Term 1.



Year 1 has shown enthusiasm every week, bringing in items for their News topic to present to the class.



Year 1 students looked amazing in their cultural costume on Harmony day! We also hosted the assembly on the same day and students had a ton of fun showing their performances to our parent visitors.





# Year 2



## Science

*Science was full of fun and hands-on activities this term! 2B was given the opportunity to design then create their own toys using recycled materials. Students used their creativity to produce rockets, robots, turtles, cars, snakes and dolls.*



## Harmony Assembly

*2B was lucky enough to host the Harmony Day assembly. We presented several entertaining Mathematics tricks, a Science presentation and a whole class song. I am proud of 2B's courage to stand up and present in front of a large audience. Also, a special thank you to all our lovely parents for sending delicious food to share on the day.*



*Mrs Bilgesu Sezer*

# Year 3

## *Back to the Future!*

As part of their History Unit 'Community and Remembrance' year 3 had the opportunity to visit Auburn and see first hand how the city has changed over time. The day started off with a workshop at Auburn Library, where the Local Historical Expert took them through a timeline starting at the time of the Indigenous Australians. Did you know that Duck River was a meeting place for Aboriginal clans? Next, we had a private tour of Auburn Gallipoli Mosque. Year 3 were taken into various parts of the masjid before participating in Dhur prayer. Finally, Year 3 headed to the Auburn Botanical Gardens where they met some furry friends. Overall it was a fantastic day!

Ms. Eman and Ms. Samah







## **YEAR 4**

### **Aboriginal Tour of the Blue Mountains**

During a day of adventure-grade hiking, our Aboriginal guide-Evan Yanna Murru opened to Year 4 about the ancient secrets of thousand-year-old Aboriginal history. He explained initiation rituals, song lines and the medicinal properties of tea tree. During the walkabout, we paused in an open cave, the roof knotted like coral, to read the signs of the Rainbow Serpent. Within an hour, students stuffed their nostrils with rolled eucalyptus leaves and admired funnel-web skins in their palms. In this respect, the tour demanded more than sturdy hiking boots. It demanded an open mind to the Dreamtime world. Negativity, we were told, is "bad spirit trouble" and any that we felt during the walkabout needed to be thrown away into the bad spirit realm. This wasn't hard to do as the students were having the time of their lives. This was an experience the students will never forget.



### **Busy Bees in Books**

Students have been working extremely hard in Mathematics and English with the completion of their Signpost and English Now textbooks. Students are finding the textbooks both engaging and useful in consolidating important information. Students have also been buried in their set reading text: Nanberry by Jackie French. Sura mentioned that Nanberry was the best book she had ever read as it "showed the class about the truth of what happened to the Aboriginal people".





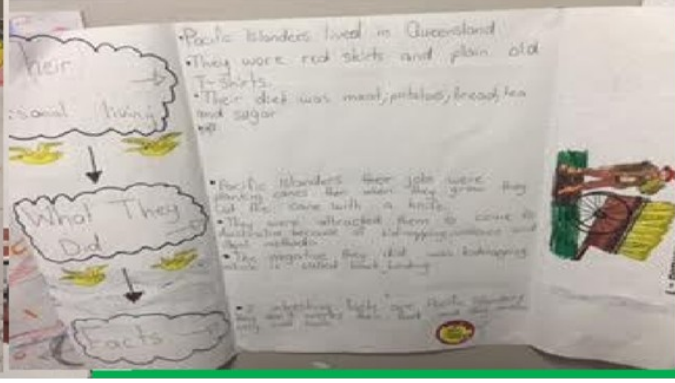
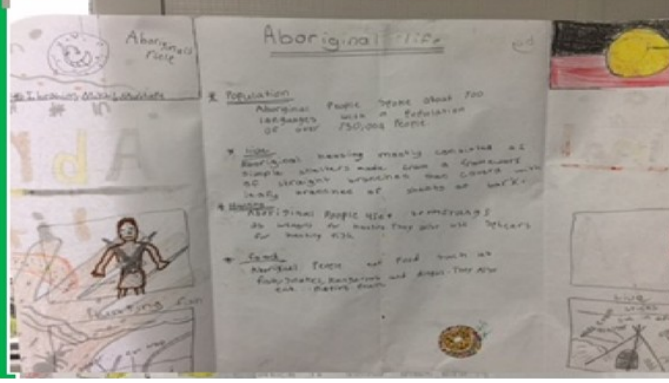
# 5D in Term 1



Year 5 have been learning about 'Electricity' focusing on renewable and non-renewable energy during Science lessons. As part of the program we had lots of fun planning and modelling energy efficient homes in groups. The students worked extremely hard on their designs and their hard work has paid off.



In history, students have been learning about 'Australian Colonies'. Students investigated the colonial life to discover what life was like at that time for different inhabitants. Students created a tri-fold brochure and presented the information on their chosen inhabitant to the class. They are now proudly displayed in our classroom.





# Term 1 in 6E

It is such a pleasure and honour to be given the opportunity to teach the leaders of primary school for 2017. Such strong and motivated characters in our class and such beautifully humble souls too. Each day has been colourful, each day has been meaningful and each day has been memorable...

Some of those memorable moments for this term were most definitely the exciting Milsons Island camp and the colourful Harmony Day experience. Our students seemed to have a blast at the camp, as they had the opportunity to bond with their teachers and peers.

Harmony day was also a delightful and delicious event, where students were exposed to a variety of cultures through the diverse dishes they all tasted and the discussions we had in class about the various Australians residing in This term, students learned about the various earthquakes that took place around the world. Students were asked to select an earthquake and answer some questions about the impact and the governmental approach. Students were also asked to present a model of an earthquake, which they presented ever so creatively.

I trust the creativity and love for learning my students have will continue to grow in the coming terms. Looking forward to seeing you all in term 2. Enjoy the well-deserved break!

*Ms Elif Tirzik*





# English and History

Year 7 **English** students have been busily reading through this term's set text A. F. Harold's *The Imaginary*. During their studies this novel has allowed them to consider how language allows the reader to vividly imagine scenes in their mind. The picture below shows the Year 7 students undertaking a creative writing activity to use their imagina-



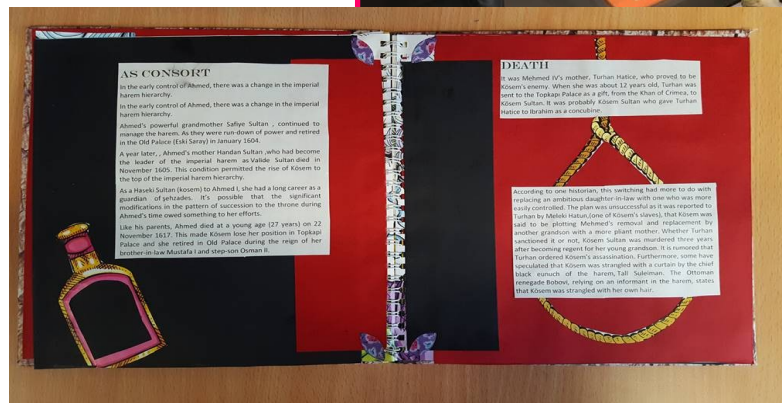
Year 8 **English** students undertook a unit on Pop Culture at the beginning of Term 1 that required them to consider how our culture is shaped by what is considered 'Popular'. The picture below is a sample of the fantastic posters students created representing pop culture.



Year 7 **History** have been studying the Ancient Past which included a visit to the Australian Museum. This excursion included a workshop looking at Indigenous artefacts and how they were used as well as time to explore the museum's various exhibits.



Year 8 **History** have been studying Ottoman history. The assignment below is a biography of Kösem Sultan.





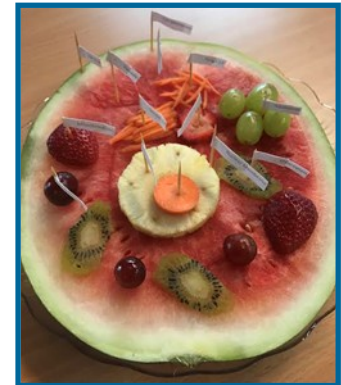
# Science and PDHPE

Year 7 and 8 Science students have had a busy term investigating core concepts in the fields of Chemistry and Biology respectfully.



Year 7 Science students make slime to investigate the properties of substances.

Year 8 Science students use the light microscope to investigate plant and animal cells. They then got creative making 3D models of the cells they observed.



In PDHPE Year 7 and 8 boys have been training for a Futsal Competition that will take place in May. Mr Ahmet Taslak has graciously agreed to coach the students. On Thursday of weeks 9 and 10 students visited the Futsal Institute in Wetherill Park to train and play friendly matches in preparation for the upcoming competition.

Ms Zina Al-Nakeeb



# Mathematics

## Year 7 Mathematics:

Assalamu Alaykum,

During term 1, students have explored the areas of the beginnings of number, numbers and indices, patterns and algebra with a focus in working mathematically throughout.

Students have drawn a connection to the real world and history through their content throughout the term and also through their assessments which was focused on the Fibonacci numbers.

Incursion run by World of Maths promoted and enhanced students' mathematical skills and confidence through game based learning.

Also, we have used Mathletics as an additional resource throughout the term to provide ongoing support in foundational areas of mathematics and also with the new content taught.

## Year 8 Mathematics:

Assalamu Alaykum,

During term 1, students have explored the areas of the number and algebra, Pythagoras' theorem, percentages, probability with a focus in working mathematically throughout.

Students have drawn a connection to the real world and to history through their content throughout the term and also through their assessments which was focused on a key mathematician within history.

Incursion run by World of Maths promoted and enhanced students' mathematical skills and confidence through game based learning.

Also, we have used Mathletics as an additional resource throughout the term to provide ongoing support in foundational areas of mathematics and also with the new content taught.







# Primary Personal Development and Health (PDH)

Ms Betul Tunali



As the new PDH teacher for Irfan College, I am very grateful for all the students and staff members for welcoming me to the school.

In term 1, students from Kindergarten to Year 6 learnt about Interpersonal Relationships. Some of the topics covered throughout term 1 include: relationships, friendships, families, conflict resolution, communication and cooperation, joining groups, peer pressure, tolerance, sharing and negotiating. Through learning about these topics, students were able to identify the ways in which they communicate, cooperate and care for others. These topics also highlighted how various relationships with a range of people can enhance our own wellbeing!



# Islamic Studies

## Qur'an and Islamic Studies Department

This term, students have been working very hard in their Qur'an and Islamic Studies classes. Irfan College places great importance on this area and aims to work together with students, parents and external resources as closely as possible in order to instil a strong love for the Book of Allah and our beautiful religion in the hearts of all our children.

Irfan College will this year be launching its inaugural Young Scholars Program, an intensive before and after school program that intends to provide a select group of students with the knowledge and tools necessary to lead the Muslim community of the future. This program will run for the duration of high school and inshaa Allah be a stepping stone for students who may wish to pursue further studies in religion after graduating from school.

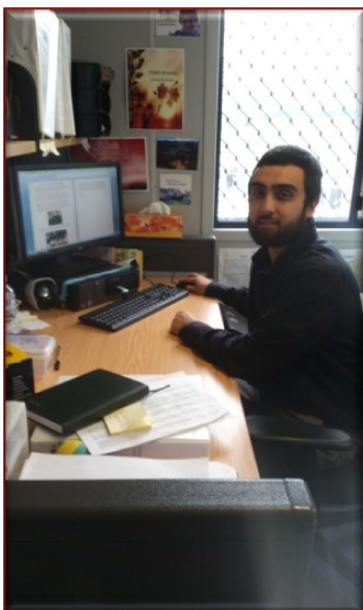
Students also had the opportunity to engage in various activities and projects in school. In the beginning of the term, teachers began to notice some students who were having difficulty performing wudu and their prayers, in particular, students we have welcomed newly to the college. In response to this, a wudu and prayer workshop ran during lunch time, open to all students to rectify this situation. Students were also notified of a Qur'an competition that will take place later this year to allow them to begin practising from now.

We also welcome our newest addition to the Qur'an and Islamic Studies department, Ms Nawal who will be the second Qur'an assistant. Ms Nawal possesses an ijazah in Qur'an and has spent many years studying Shari'ah abroad.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuous support in your child's religious studies development. I urge you to consistently work with the school in assisting your child with their Qur'an studies at home in order to ensure that a fruitful result is attained. Please also ensure that your child brings the correct book each week (as per instructions sent out a few weeks ago by mail). If you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me to arrange an appointment and we can discuss your child's progress further.

Assalamu aleykum

Mr Erol





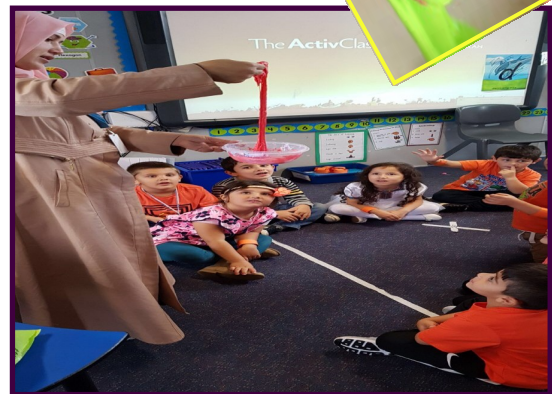
# Turkish

In Turkish class this term, we learnt how to be a good friend, the importance of the Turkish National Anthem and about Mehmet Akif Ersoy. We played word games and sang Turkish songs. We read life stories. We learnt the Turkish alphabet styles, body parts, family members, asking and giving information about the weather, bargaining in the Turkish culture, colours and numbers as well as Turkish culture. Kindy and Year 1 had lots of fun learning the colours using slime. Ms. Cavuslu will miss all his students and wishes them a safe and enjoyable holiday. İyi tatiller!

Miss Sumeyye



Kindy and Year 1 had lots of fun learning the colours using slime.







# Arabic

Asalaamualaykum dearest parents,

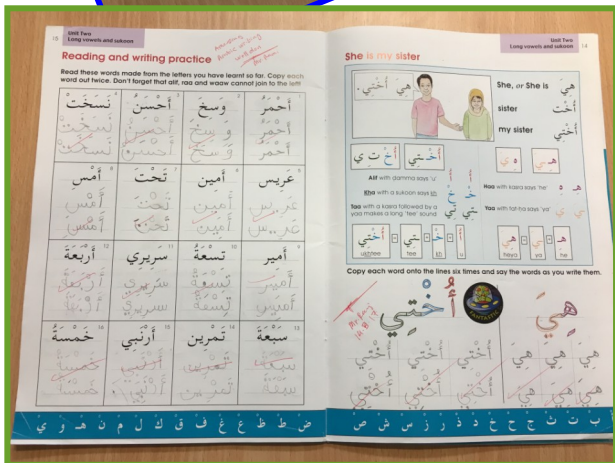
What a busy and productive term Arabic students have had! We can't believe how fast the term has ended. All students have now completed all their assessments and will receive their marks soon Inshallah. I must say how extremely proud I am of all the students from Kindergarten to Year 8. Their Arabic skills are improving and I can see some great effort put in from some students.

In the primary grades, we have been having lots of conversations in Arabic and expanding our vocabulary. In high school, we are focusing a lot on Arabic writing and reading. Many students are trying their best to understand the Arabic language. High school students will receive their assessment notifications and will need to submit it in on time to myself.

Could I kindly request that parents/caregivers assist students by encouraging the use of the Arabic language around the house. This could be done by having basic conversations just in Arabic, reading Arabic stories or watching an Arabic documentary. Reading the Quran regularly is also a great way to practise Arabic.

I hope you have a safe and happy holidays and inshallah I'll see you all next term.

Wasalaamualaykum.  
Mr. Rami Almomani





# Welcoming Ramazan

As we approach the Holy Month of Ramadhan, the wonderful staff at Irfan College have been thinking hard about how we can contribute to your family's enjoyment of this special time of year. Many things were suggested but unfortunately, we couldn't list them all. We had a hard time prioritising to make sure that we came up with a list of things that your family could use.

## Ramazan checklist

Remind your children daily of their obligations during this Holy Month.

- Wake up for Sahur
- Wake up for Fajr
- Read Quran
- Say the "breaking the fast" dua
- Praying Taraweeh

### When breaking the fast

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي لَكَ صُمْتُ وَبِكَ آمَنْتُ  
وَعَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ  
أَفْطَرْتُ

*Allahumma inni laka sumtu  
wa bika aamantu wa 'alayka  
tawakkaltu wa 'ala  
rizq-ika aftartu*

That's to help your children focus, but about that Iftar dinner? Here are some websites which provide the Ramadhan chef with a host of ideas for Iftar dinners.

## Websites

[Khanapakana.com](http://Khanapakana.com)

[Zaiqa.com](http://Zaiqa.com)

[Myhalalkitchen.com](http://Myhalalkitchen.com)

We hope that you enjoy your holidays and are ready for Term 2, and the blessed month of Ramazan.

The Newsletter Team

